



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/556,276	04/24/2000	Fred S. Cook	1352	8008

28004 7590 03/31/2003
SPRINT
6391 SPRINT PARKWAY
KSOPHT0101-Z2100
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100

EXAMINER

ZIA, SYED

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2155

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/556,276

Applicant(s)

COOK, FRED S.

Examiner

Syed Zia

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pugh et al., U. S Patent 5,483,582.

3. Regarding Claim 1 Pugh teaches and describes a method of operating an access system including an access server to provide access between a user system and a plurality of communication networks that provide services to a user (Fig.2), the method comprising:

- receiving information identifying a billing code for the user (col.8 line 26 to line 34);

- processing the billing code to determine if the user is allowed to use the access system (col.12 line 37 to line 67); and

- providing access to the access system in response to the determination that the user is allowed to use the access system (col.13 line 1 to line 20).

Art Unit: 2155

4. Regarding Claim 13 Pugh teaches and describes an access system for providing access between a user system and a plurality of communication networks that provide services to a user, comprising:

- an access server connected to the user system and the plurality of communication networks and configured to transfer information identifying a billing code for the user from the user system to a database system (Fig.2, col.9 line 7 to col.13 line 20); and

- the database system connected to the access server and configured to receive the information identifying the billing code for the user, process the billing code to determine if the user is allowed to use the access system, and provide access to the access system in response to the determination that the user is allowed to use the access system (col.12 line 37to col.13 line 20).

5. Claims 2, 3, 7, 14, 15, and 19 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 1, and 13. Furthermore, Pugh teaches and describes receiving the information identifying the billing code comprises:

- retrieving the billing code from the user access profile (col.12 line 56 to line 59); and wherein

- the billing code is a prepaid account code, and the billing code is a bank card number (col.12 line 59 to line 61);

- the database system is configured to retrieve the billing code from the user access profile (col.8 line26 to 43).

Art Unit: 2155

6. Claims 4-6, 8-12, 16-18, and 20-24 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 3, 7, 15, and 19. Furthermore, Pugh teaches and describes an access server connected to user system and database system connected to the access server to, wherein:

- processing the billing code to determine if the user is allowed to use the access system is based on the remaining time on the user's prepaid account (col.7 line 58 to col.8 line 5);

- processing the billing code to determine if the user is allowed to use the access system is based on the remaining currency amount on the user's prepaid account, and processing the billing code to determine if the user is allowed to use the access system comprises evaluating a positive balance file (col.7 line 42 to line 57);

- the bank card number is a credit card number, and the bank card number is a debit card number (col.19 line 50 to line 57);

- further comprising generating a pre-authorization hold transaction, an authorization/capture transaction, and a pre-authorization complete transaction, including the bank card number for a financial interface (col.5 line 59 to col.6 line 9).

Art Unit: 2155

Conclusion

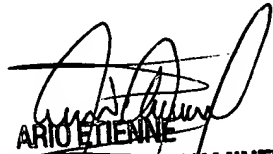
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U. S. Patents 5544320, 5815665, 5953398, 5956482, and 6226364.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Zia whose telephone number is 703-305-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-746-7240.

SZ
March 21, 2003


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100